

PROPOSED REMARKS  
BY  
WILLIAM H. WEBSTER  
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
AT THE  
CIA PROGRAM OBSERVING NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
INTRODUCTION OF COLIN POWELL  
FEBRUARY 18, 1988

GOOD MORNING. I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE A PART OF THIS PROGRAM  
CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH. SINCE THE DAYS OF THE AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION, ~~BLACKS~~<sup>Americans</sup> HAVE PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN DEFENDING OUR  
NATION. IT IS FITTING THAT WE MARK BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN 1988 BY  
RECOGNIZING THE COURAGE, DEDICATION, AND SACRIFICE OF ~~BLACK~~<sup>those</sup>  
AMERICANS WHO HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY IN THE MILITARY.

WHILE FOCUSING ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THOSE IN THE MILITARY, <sup>including many of our Special</sup>  
THE 1988 CIA EXHIBIT COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH ALSO  
ILLUSTRATES THE ROLE ~~BLACKS~~<sup>Americans</sup> HAVE PLAYED IN CONTRIBUTING TO OUR  
MISSION -- THE COLLECTION OF INTELLIGENCE. THE EXHIBIT INCLUDES A  
TRIBUTE TO JAMES ARMISTEAD LAFAYETTE, A SLAVE FROM NEW KENT COUNTY,  
VIRGINIA, WHO ENLISTED ON BEHALF OF THE COLONIAL CAUSE UNDER FRENCH  
MAJOR GENERAL ~~LAFAYETTE~~<sup>Maryland James</sup>. THE CONTRIBUTION JAMES ARMISTEAD LAFAYETTE  
MADE TO THE REBELLION WAS ESPIONAGE. IN 1786, THE VIRGINIA GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY EMANCIPATED THE FORMER INTELLIGENCE OPERATIVE. IN THE

WORDS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODY, THIS EX-SLAVE "AT THE PERIL OF HIS LIFE FOUND MEANS TO FREQUENT THE BRITISH CAMP, AND FAITHFULLY EXECUTE IMPORTANT MISSIONS ENTRUSTED TO HIM BY THE MARQUIS."

WHEN LAFAYETTE TRIUMPHANTLY TOURED AMERICA IN 1824 HE VISITED RICHMOND TO GREET THE MAN HE CONSIDERED "HIS" INTELLIGENCE AGENT.<sup>1</sup>

JAMES ARMISTEAD LAFAYETTE IS ONE OF THE MILLIONS OF BLACK AMERICANS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE SECURITY OF THIS NATION. TODAY IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OF US AT THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY TO RECOGNIZE AND TAKE PRIDE IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BLACK AMERICANS. IT IS ALSO A TIME TO REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OUR CITIZENS.

THROUGHOUT MY CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE, I HAVE STRONGLY BELIEVED THAT ANY PUBLIC INSTITUTION -- IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE AND FAIR -- MUST REFLECT THE SOCIETY OF WHICH IT IS A PART. HERE AT CIA, OUR

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION RECORD OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS SHOWS GAINS IN SOME AREAS. BUT THERE ARE MANY OTHER AREAS WHERE I WANT TO SEE MORE PROGRESS. PARTICULARLY, I EXPECT TO SEE MORE MINORITIES IN OUR PROFESSIONAL WORK FORCE, AS WELL AS INCREASES OF BOTH WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN THE MIDDLE AND SENIOR LEVELS OF MANAGEMENT.<sup>2</sup> I CONSIDER THIS A PRIORITY, AND I WILL WORK TO BRING IT ABOUT.

ILLEGIB AND NOW I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE OUR GUEST SPEAKER, ~~THIS MORNING~~  
[REDACTED]  
-- A PERSONAL FRIEND OF MINE -- GENERAL COLIN POWELL, ASSISTANT TO  
THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS.]

ILLEGIB [REDACTED]  
ILLEGIB (YOU MIGHT WANT TO MAKE SOME PERSONAL COMMENTS ABOUT GENERAL  
[REDACTED]  
POWELL HERE)

*Col*  
Lt GENERAL POWELL WAS RAISED IN THE SOUTH BRONX, AND HE GRADUATED FROM CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK. HE WAS COMMISSIONED A SECOND LIEUTENANT IN THE U.S. ARMY IN 1958. OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS,

GENERAL POWELL HAS HELD A VARIETY OF COMMAND AND STAFF ASSIGNMENTS, RANGING FROM PLATOON LEADER IN THE EARLY YEARS TO COMMANDING GENERAL OF HEADQUARTERS FIFTH CORPS IN FRANKFURT, WEST GERMANY. HE SERVED IN KOREA AND VIETNAM, AND THEN WENT ON TO BECOME THE SENIOR MILITARY ASSISTANT TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CASPAR WEINBERGER. LAST DECEMBER, HE WAS APPOINTED ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY ILLEGIB AFFAIRS.<sup>3</sup>

ILLEGIB GENERAL POWELL, WE ARE HONORED BY YOUR PRESENCE AND LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Information on James Armistead Lafayette is included in the "Blacks in the Military" exhibit commemorating Black History Month on the first floor of the Headquarters building and is attached as Tab A. The exhibit was prepared by the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and the Office of Information Resources.

<sup>2</sup> Remarks on the need for more minorities in the Agency's professional work force were drawn from Judge Webster's remarks at the SIS Promotion and Awards Ceremony on 12 January 1988.

<sup>3</sup> Biographical information on Lieutenant General Colin L. Powell is from the Agency program on Black History Month, which is attached as Tab B.

**James Armistead Lafayette by John B. Martin, ca. 1824. Reproduced and used with permission of the Valentine Museum, Richmond, Va.**

Known at first only as James, this slave from New Kent County, Va., asked permission from his owner, William Armistead, to enlist on behalf of the colonial cause under French Maj. Gen. Lafayette. James' contribution to the rebellion: espionage. As Lafayette wrote in a 1784 testimonial (reproduced here), his spy had rendered "services to me while I had the honour to command in this state. His intelligence from the enemy's camp were industriously collected and more faithfully delivered."

In 1786 the Virginia General Assembly emancipated the former operative, now called James Armistead Lafayette. In the words of the legislative body, this ex-slave "at the peril of his life found means to frequent the British camp, and . . . faithfully execute important commissions entrusted to him by the marquis."

When Lafayette made his triumphal tour of America in 1824 he visited Richmond to greet the man he considered "his" intelligence agent.